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SOURCE 1952 Jen-min Shou-ts'e, p 336.

NATIONWIDE ABUNDANT PRODUCTION OF FOOD  
 AND INDUSTRIAL CROPS IN CHINA, 1951

[Comment and summary: The information in this report is  
 from an article originally published in the Hsin-hua Yueh-pao  
 (New China Monthly) of October 1951, which in turn had as its  
 source reports by the Hsin-hua She dated 23 and 24 September 1951.

This report reviews crop conditions for 1951 and gives some  
 production figures for cereals, cotton, hemp, and tobacco.]

Grain Production

Although autumn crops had suffered losses in a number of areas from drought  
 and pest damage, the harvests in most of the country in 1951 were better than  
 those in 1950. The total volume of grain production surpassed that of 1950.

The rice yield along the Yangtze River Valley and south of the river was  
 generally excellent in 1951. The rice yield in Szechuan Province was from  
 80 to 90 percent of a full crop. The mid-season rice production in Chekiang  
 Province was generally 10-20 percent above 1950. The mid-season rice in Hunan,  
 Hupeh, and Kiangsi Provinces showed better yields than in 1950 although some  
 individual localities suffered from the summer drought. The average production  
 of rice in Hupeh Province was approximately 350 catties per mou [one mou equals  
 1/6 acre].

There were good yields of kaoliang, millet, corn, and all sorts of beans.  
 The autumn crops in the Huai Ho Valley were abundant. The average harvests of  
 autumn crops in the Northeast as a whole were about 80 percent of a full crop.  
 Kaoliang and millet in the provinces of Honan, Shantung, Pingyuan, and Hopeh,  
 with a small number of localities suffering from various calamities, yielded  
 approximately 200 catties per mou. High production was 300 to 400 catties per  
 mou. So far as continental China was concerned -- with the exception of the  
 Inner Mongolia Autonomous Area and Chahar, Suiyuan, Hopeh, Shensi, and Shansi  
 Provinces where crop damage from various causes reduced yield below that of  
 1950 -- the yield in other provinces and areas surpassed that of 1950.

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In 1951, autumn crops in most of China suffered seriously from natural calamities. Both temperatures and precipitation were far less regular than in 1950. Many localities suffered serious losses from pests. Accordingly, the total volume of grain production did not reach the original quotas set; but, the total volume in comparison with that of 1950 was increased. The increase in grain production was achieved because the farmers under the leadership of the people's government were able to expand the patriotic, Production Increase Movement. During the past year, the farmers in the country as a whole, under the leadership of the Central People's Government and with its assistance, have installed irrigation facilities, sown improved seeds, have increased the application of fertilizers, have improved their techniques of plowing and cultivation, and have been successful in their struggle for abundant harvests. In those places where crops suffered some damage from natural causes, vigorous efforts made to conquer such calamities resulted in comparatively good harvests. These are the basic reasons why the total volume of agricultural production increased in 1951.

#### Cotton Production

According to the estimates made by the Ministry of Agriculture on the basis of the area planted, the condition of the cotton plants, and the harvests already gathered, the total volume of cotton production will surpass the original plans, and a historic record will be created.

To meet the requirements of the textile industry in China, the farmers in the country as a whole, in response to the appeals made by the government in the spring of 1951, enlarged their areas of planting. Accordingly, cotton growing spread even to places in Heilungkiang Province located north of the 45th Parallel. In addition, the existing cotton production areas were increased, and Hopeh Province alone had an acreage of 17,960,000 mou. In 1951, the area under cotton surpassed the plans originally drawn up, and the increase of the cotton growing area is considered the basic reason why cotton production has been greatly augmented.

In general, in 1951, the growing season was favorable for cotton. However, although cotton farmers did everything within their power to combat them, drought and weevils took a heavy toll. In North China, particularly in Hopeh Province, the seriousness of cotton weevil damage was beyond anything in the past. After the people's government sent a great quantity of powders and sprayers and led the farmers to exterminate the pests, the effects on the crop were somewhat minimized.

#### Hemp and Jute Production

In 1951, the chief hemp producing provinces, Chekiang, Kiangsi, and others, reaped abundant crops of hemp. The highest record of jute production in Chekaing Province was 500 catties per mou. The highest flax production was approximately 300-400 catties per mou. The average production of improved hemp in Kiangsi province was more than 300 catties per mou. The highest record of hemp production in Yungfeng Hsien was 530 catties per mou.

It is estimated that the total volume of hemp production in Kiangsi Province was 230,000 piculs [one picul equals 133.33 pounds], twice the volume of 1950. The production of jute in South Kiangsu was from 250-300 catties per mou. The production of jute in North Anhui was 200 catties per mou. The quality of hemp produced in North China was not inferior to that produced in South China. The volume of kenafe /ambari hemp/ production in Hsin Hsien and of Hsing Hsien was 240 catties per mou, respectively. The volume of kenafe production in Hopei Province was 270 catties per mou. The production of kenafe in Pingyuan Province was only from 50-60 catties per mou because of the spring drought.

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In the Kansu and Ningsia in the Northwest, the experimental planting of kenaf produced good results. It seems quite possible that abundant harvests may be achieved. In the Northeast, it is estimated that the production of hemp would be sufficient for home consumption.

The thick fibres derived from the varieties of hemp mentioned above are the raw materials for gunny bags. In the past, because of lack of raw materials, our country had to import gunny bags from foreign countries. In 1951, the Central People's Government appealed to the farmers to enlarge the acreage of industrial raw materials. Accordingly, the acreage of hemp plantings has been increased and has greatly surpassed the plans for production. It is estimated that the total volume goal will be greatly surpassed.

#### Tobacco Production

In 1951, the total volume of tobacco leaves will greatly exceed the original plans, and this will provide the raw materials for the cigarette industry.

The chief tobacco-growing areas in China are in Honan and Shantung Provinces. During the past several years, because of lack of communication, the price of tobacco leaves dropped. Consequently, farmers transformed their tobacco fields into grain producing acres. As a result, the volume of tobacco production was greatly reduced and the cigarette industry found it very hard to get tobacco leaves. The shortage continued in 1950, and the acreage of tobacco planting and volume of production was still below the prewar levels. In 1951, the Central People's Government appealed to the farmers to plant various industrial crops, and the tobacco farmers were warm in their response. The acreage of tobacco planting was suddenly increased. The acreage of tobacco in Honan Province surpassed that of the prewar period, while Lin-ch'ü Hsien, Shantung, alone had had an acreage of 100,000 mou of tobacco fields; this acreage greatly exceeded the area of the prewar period.

Tobacco farmers waged fierce battles against natural calamities in the period from the planting of tobacco to its harvest in 1951. During the spring, it was dry in Honan Province and 20 percent of the tobacco plants died. In some places the losses reached 50 percent. However, tobacco farmers received relief funds for replanting and planted late-ripening varieties to replace those plants which had died. As a result, the acreage under tobacco surpassed the area of the original plan. At the time the tobacco plants were planted, there was no rainfall. To overcome this difficulty, farmers dug wells to obtain water to irrigate the young tobacco plants.

In May 1951 in Honan Province, in the areas of Ch'ang-ko Hsien, Hsiang-ch'eng Hsien, Hsia Hsien, and Teng Hsien, there was a kind of disease called black shank. The Agriculture and Forestry Department of the Honan People's Provincial Government sent out technical workers with a great quantity of powders and sprayers to go to the villages to combat the disease. Their efforts prevented the disease from spreading. Various places in Shantung Province suffered from three kinds of diseases, namely, blue mold, stalk wilt, and leaf spot. Shantung and Honan Provinces as well as other places suffered some losses from aphids, but the vigorous efforts made by the People's Government to lead the farmers to exterminate pests, prevented the losses from being severe.

The early-ripening tobacco in the Honan Province, with the exception of a limited area where drought reduced the yield, amounted to 150 to 200 catties per mou. The late-ripening tobacco yielded 150 catties per mou. In Shantung Province and in North Anhwei the average production was 160 catties per mou. The people's governments in each of the tobacco areas made great efforts to assist the tobacco farmers in solving the difficulty arising from shortage of fertilizers at the time of planting and in conquering the obstacles arising from the shortage of coal used in the curing of tobacco. The Hsu-ch'ang Special Administrative District granted tobacco loans to farmers amounting to 8,700,000 yuan in 1951, and more than 100,000 tons of coal was transported to that area.

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